

NATHANIEL AND WILLIAM OFFUTT.

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FEBRUARY 2, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. PUGH, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following  
REPORT.

[To accompany House Res. No. 517.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5615) for the relief of Nathaniel and William Offutt, having considered the same, submit the following report:

It appears from the evidence on file in the case that Nathaniel and William Offutt, late of the parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana, were the owners of a sawmill, a large amount of lumber in said parish during the late war, and also of a steamboat—the *Elmere*—which was appropriated by the United States troops in the course of the suppression of the rebellion without compensating the owners therefor; that the value of the property so taken was and is \$110,000; that the owners of said property did not file their claim to compensation before the Southern Claims Commission because they believed it would not be considered as stores and supplies within the meaning of that act. It would seem proper under the prima facie showing made before this committee that a judicial investigation by the Court of Claims would subserve the ends of justice, and it is hereby recommended that said case be referred to the said court for investigation in accordance with the act of March 3, 1887.

